

**Monitoring of biochemical markers of septic states.**

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## 2. SOUHRN

Problematika systémového zánětu, (systemic inflammatory response syndrome-SIRS), resp. sepsy je v poslední době velice diskutovaná a to napříč medicínskými obory.

Včasná diagnóza a následně adekvátní terapie snižuje rizika jejich rozvoje. Je tedy obecně snahou najít vhodný marker pro diagnostiku a monitoraci průběhu. Každým rokem se objevují nové markery, které mozaikovitě doplňují patofyziologický obraz, ale marker, který by splňoval podmínky specifity, senzitivity, dostupnosti, stále nemáme. V posledních 10 letech je za jeden z nejnadějnějších považován prokalcitonin (PCT).

V rámci sledování zánětlivých parametrů, resp. jejich chování ve stavech systémového zánětu jsem se soustředila hlavně na prokalcitonin a jeho jakoby nesouhlasné nálezy s přítomností infektu a s ostatními parametry zánětu. A to nejprve ve studii porovnávání sensitivity a specifity PCT a dalších vybraných zánětlivých parametrů v klinicky definovaných stavech, kde potvrzuje PCT svoje výjimečné postavení. V dalších studiích jsem se zaměřila na elevace PCT při nepřítomnosti akutního infektu. A to nejprve ve studii s pacienty v transplantaci kostní dřeně, kde významné elevace souvisí spíše s rozpadem leukocytů a hepatotoxicitou způsobenou podáním ATG. Ve studiích s pacienty v konečné fázi renálního selhání se neinfekční elevace jeví spíše jako projev tíže stavu. V závěrečné studii jsme potvrdili vztah PCT k tíži stavu a ke stavu antioxidační ochrany, respektive plasmatické hladině selenu. Ve zmíněných studiích bych ráda prezentovala diagnostickou šíři tohoto, asi v současné době nejpoužívanějšího markeru systémového zánětu. Chtěla bych zdůraznit důležitost správné indikace, interpretace v souvislosti s dalšími parametry a hlavně s klinickým stavem. PCT představuje při téměř 10 letech užívání v klinické praxi stále dobrý biologický diagnostický marker sepsy nebo septického šoku. Jeho výpovědní hodnota je zde nadřazená C-reaktivnímu proteinu (CRP) a dalším proteinům akutní fáze. Popisuje tíž stavu, rozsah systémové odpovědi, jednoznačně diagnostikuje přítomnost systémové bakteriální infekce. Měl by být součástí diagnostických postupů

(guidelines) pro sepsi, stává se vodítkem v zahájení a ukončení antibiotické terapie a součástí klinické praxe na JIP. Hodnoty PCT přispívají k identifikaci nemocných s nepříznivou prognózou přežití těžkých bakteriálních infekcí-sepsí.

### 3. SUMMARY

The topic of systemic inflammatory response is lately often discussed across the whole field of medicine. Early diagnosis and the following adequate therapy minimize the risks of the development of systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).

Therefore there is a general urge to find an appropriate marker for diagnosing and monitoring of the development of SIRS. Each year new markers appear, markers that fill up the mosaic of a pathophysiological picture, but we still do not have a marker, that would fulfill the demands of specificity, sensitivity and availability. In the recent ten years, one of the most promising markers seems to be the PCT.

Within the frame of monitoring the inflammatory parameters, or rather their behavior in the SIRS, I have focused mainly on procalcitonin and its seemingly divertive results in connection with the appearance of infection and with other parameters of the inflammation.

In the first study, I have focused on comparing the sensitivity and specificity of the PCT and other inflammatory markers in defined clinical states (SIRS, MODS). PCT proved its best prognostic and diagnostic value. In other studies I focused on elevations of PCT in patients without acute infect. This is discussed in a study with patients undergoing blood stem cells transplantation, where the elevations of PCT are rather due to the destruction of white blood cells (WBC) and hepatotoxicity, caused as a reaction to ATG administration.

In two studies with patients in end states renal diseases (ESRD) the non infectious elevations appear as marker of severity of clinical state. In the last study we confirm the relationship between PCT and severity of clinical state and the antioxidative defence, respectively the plasmatic selenium level. In the above mentioned studies I would like to present the wide range of this marker, which in the meantime is one of

the most used markers of the SIRS. I would like to stress the importance of a correct indication and of an accurate interpretation in accordance with all the other parameters, but most of all with the clinical state. PCT, being almost ten years in use in clinical praxis, still represents a good biological diagnostic marker of sepsis or septic shock. Its informative value is higher than CRP and other proteins of the acute phase. It describes the condition of a patient and the range of reactions of the system. It diagnoses accurately the presence of bacterial infection in the system. It should be a part of diagnostic guidelines for sepsis, it guides the beginning and the end of an antibiotic therapy, and it should be part of a clinical praxis at JIP as well. The PCT values contribute to identification of patients with critical prognosis to survive hard bacterial infections/sepsis.

#### 4. INTRODUCTION

Infection is primarily a defense of the organism. It helps the organism, in the whole range of its appearances, both on local and systemic level to deal with the critical noxis, infectious (bacterias, viruses, mycosis) as well as noninfectious (physical, chemical destruction) origin. On more levels and in more systems, all interconnected, a search for identification, localization, destruction of agents is going on. At the same time, the establishment of recovering mechanisms is going on recovering the function on both the local and the systemic inflammation.

Today, a proven function of the first contact have the Toll like receptors, that react to specific matrices. These are included in groups of pathogens and through activation of nuclear factor kappa B (NF-kappaB) initiates the transcription of proximal cytokins (Interleukin IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF alfa.). These activates other systems, as the monocyto-macrophag system, complement, coagulation cascade, blood platelets, derivatives of arachidonic acid (thromboxan, prostaglandin), that cause changes in the reactivity of the venous wall. They also activate adhesive molecules, acute phase proteins, and last but not least the stress hormones.

At the same time a large amount of oxygen radicals appears. They attack the endothel and accelerate the changes. The impact of oxygen radicals is generally believed to be decisive in pathogenesis of systemic inflammatory response. The above mentioned reaction is

uniform, and is provoked by any kind noxis (both infectious and noninfectious). The range of systemic inflammatory response can influence the gene polymorphism of the main pro- and anti- inflammatory cytokines, especially TNF-alfa, IL-1beta, IL-6, IL-8 a IL-10.

Among other influencing factors are: the type of infection agents, the quality and intensity of hormonal response, the intensity of oxidative stress, and the capacity of the organism to respond to it. For an early diagnosis and monitoring of the development of the inflammation, we can monitor a palette of inflammatory markers, markers of metabolic response and markers of oxidative stress.

Monitoring of these markers and evaluation of their diagnostic value – not only in septic condition – is the topic of this paper.

## 5. AIMS

5.1. MONITORING OF SELECTED INFLAMMATORY MARKERS. EVALUATION OF THE SPECIFICITY AND SENZITIVITY OF THESE MARKERS IN DEFINED CLINICAL STATES.

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5. 2. DETERMINATE THE DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF PCT IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING STEM CELLS TRANSPLANTATION.

5.3. DETERMINATE THE DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF PCT IN ESRD PATIENTS .

Correlations with PCT and other inflammatory markers and with markers of bone metabolism.

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5.4. PCT AND OXIDATIVE STRESS, RELATIONSHIP TO SELECTED MARKERS OF ANTIOXIDATIVE DEFENSE.

Correlation between PCT, severity of clinical state and selenium plasmatic levels.



## 6. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 6.1. STUDIED GROUPS

6.1. 1. The aim of first study was to evaluate diagnostic specificity and sensitivity of procalcitonin (PCT), to compare PCT to C-reactive protein (CRP) and other markers of acute phase reactants in relation to clinical status and microbiological examinations. A prospective study in ICU patients. One hundred and sixty-four examinations of PCT, CRP, orosomucoid, prealbumin, fibrinogen, INR, leukocyte and platelet count were evaluated in 43 patients. The APACHE II score was calculated on admission, the SOFA daily. SIRS, MODS, positivity of bacteriological, hemoculture and apparent infection were also assessed.

6.1.2. In the second study we prospectively evaluated a cohort of twenty-six adult patients indicated for ATG conditioning regimen prior to haematopoietic stem cell transplantation in an observational non-randomized study. The patients without clinical signs of infection were prospectively studied. ATG was administered in up to three doses over 5 days. PCT, CRP, white blood count (WBC), urea, creatinine, glomerular filtration rate (GFR), bilirubin, alanin amino-transferase (ALT) and gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT) were assessed daily during ATG administration. Pharyngeal, nose and rectal swabs and urine samples were cultured twice weekly. Blood cultures were obtained if clinical symptoms of infection were present.

6.1.3.1. In the next two studies with ESRD patients there were blood samples from 54 HD patients obtained prior and after the HD, 42 healthy blood donors were examined

as controls. Blood levels of calprotectin, procalcitonin, C-reactive protein and intracellular production of IL-10 and IL-12 in monocytes were determined in both groups.

6.1.3.2. In the study, where we evaluated the interrelationship of PCT to other markers of calcium and/or bone metabolism we determined IL-10 intracellular production in monocytes, PCT, plasmatic calcium – Ca, plasmatic phosphorus – P, alkaline phosphatase - ALP, parathormone - PTH, calcitonin – CAL, cross-linked carboxyterminal telopeptid of type I collagen – ICTP.

Dialysis was carried out with the Dialog + (BBraun), AK 200 Ultra S (Gambro) and Fresenius 4008 S (Fresenius), the dialysators were from synthetic (Polyflux L, Diacap) or diacetate (Dicea), triacetate (Tricea) membranes. Blood samples were obtained just prior to the start of dialysis ( $T_0$ ), and immediately after the termination of HD ( $T_1$ ) and were drawn from the fistula or the permcath.

6.1.4. In the last study we evaluated the influence of high doses of selenium on selected clinical and laboratory parameters in critically ill patients. 140 patients (78 m, 62 f.) were randomized into groups A and B. Group A received standard Se substitution: 30-75 µg of NaSelenite i.v./day. Group B received high dose Se substitution according to a protocol: 1000 µg at day 1, following with 500 µg at days 2-14 of NaSelenite i.v. These groups we divided into 4 subgroups: SIRS, sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock. Plasma levels of Se, CRP, PCT, were examined each other day. SOFA and 28-day mortality were evaluated as clinical markers. Relations between observed parameters were evaluated statistically. In both groups transitions among subgroups during treatment were evaluated. All patients monitored less than 3 times were excluded.

## 6.2. LABORATORY EXAMINATION

All routine biochemical parameters as urea, kreatinin, albumin, prealbumin, orosomuroid, CRP, cholesterol, Ca, P, ALP, AST, ALT, GGT, beta 2- mikroglobulin

were determined with standard clinical-chemistry methods recommended by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC). IL10 intracellular production in monocytes (flow cytometry, FACS Canto, BD), Plasmatic calprotectin and serum PCT were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (MRP8/14 Bühlmann and Vidas Brahms, respectively) PTH (ECLIA), calcitonin – CAL (IRMA), cross-linked carboxyterminal telopeptid of type I collagen – ICTP (RIA).Selenium by atomic absorption spectrometry with electrothermic atomisation ( AAS), GSHPx with UV method (RANDOX). WBC was analyzed from K<sub>3</sub> EDTA samples by a blood count analyser (Advia 120, Bayer).

### 6.3. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Distributions of laboratory test results are described as mean  $\pm$  SD or interquartile range for quantitative items as stated. Correlation between levels of markers were examined with Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. To assess the accuracy of markers in groups of patients compared to controls, the Mann-Whitney *U* test was performed using the Statistica CZ program, version 7.0 (StatSoft Inc., OK, USA). *p* value smaller than 0.05 was considered significant.

## 7. RESULTS

**7.1.** PCT was a more effective marker of sepsis-related complications in ICU patients than CRP or other acute phase reactants. ROC analysis was a suitable tool for confirmation of these relations.

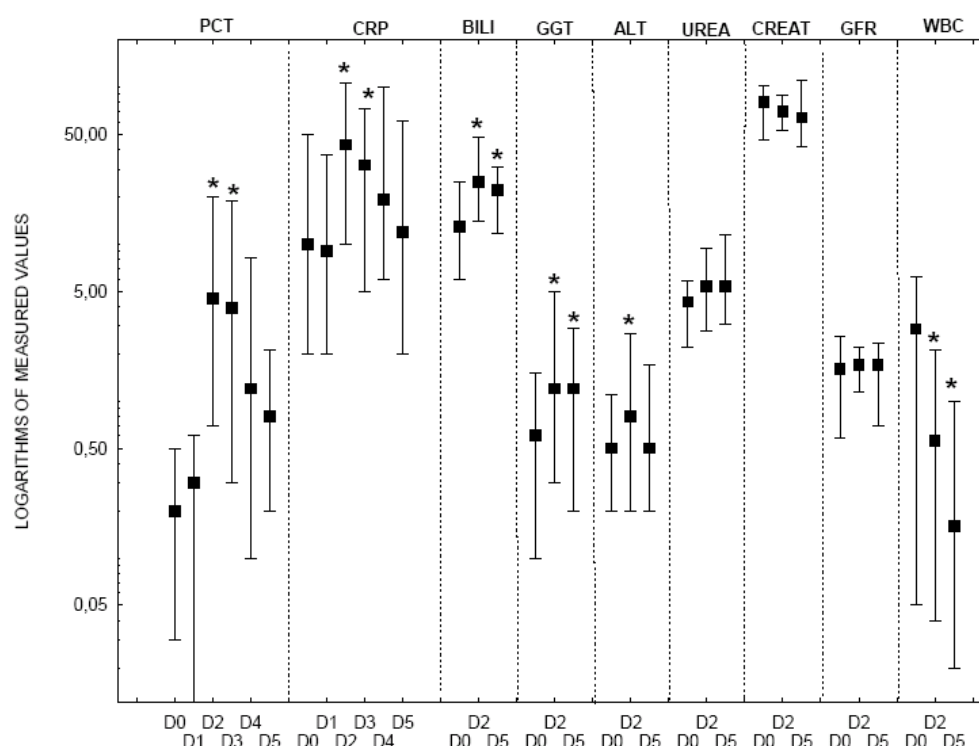
Table 1. AUC is given for the following variables.

	<b>CRP</b>	<b>leukocyty</b>	<b>orosomukoid</b>	<b>PCT</b>
<b>APACHE</b>	<b>0,580</b>	<b>0,596</b>	<b>0,571</b>	<b>0,605</b>
<b>hemoculture</b>	<b>0,545</b>	<b>0,475</b>	<b>0,663</b>	<b>0,520</b>
<b>Bacteriological finding</b>	<b>0,492</b>	<b>0,539</b>	<b>0,575</b>	<b>0,627</b>
<b>MODS</b>	<b>0,490</b>	<b>0,569</b>	<b>0,540</b>	<b>0,683</b>
<b>SIRS</b>	<b>0,564</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0,512</b>	<b>0,694</b>
<b>SOFA</b>	<b>0,557</b>	<b>0,657</b>	<b>0,523</b>	<b>0,756</b>
<b>marked infect</b>	<b>0,528</b>	<b>0,588</b>	<b>0,476</b>	<b>0,598</b>
<b>survival</b>	<b>0,546</b>	<b>0,610</b>	<b>0,472</b>	<b>0,716</b>

**7.2.** A significant increase in PCT was observed starting 24 h after ATG administration. The initial surge was followed by a slow, steady decrease. On Day 5, PCT levels were still increased, but there was no statistical difference vs. base levels (BL). The dynamics of CRP changes were similar to PCT, but CRP returned to BL values one day earlier. Similar statistically significant trends were observed for bilirubin and GGT. In contrast, ALT increased only transiently on day 2. There were no changes in urea, creatinine or GFR during conditioning. Progressive depletion of leukocytes was observed over time. There was no statistically significant

interrelationship PCT levels and markers of renal functions ( $p < 0.05$  for all comparisons). Basal levels of PCT before ATG administration were (0.185/ 0.06/ 0.30), ( 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile) and of CRP (10/ 5 /26). The second day after ATG administration, there was a routine PCT elevation, max.183, minim. 0.8 (5.0/ 1.6/ 26) and CRP max 107, min 10 (44/ 21/ 64). The first day leukocyte values max  $10.9 \times 10^9/l$ , min 0.06 (2.,88/ 1.55/ 4.32) compared to the second day values max 3.5 min 0.03 (0.56/ 0.1/ 1.22), which was statistically significant ( $p = 0.005$ ).

**Table 2. Dynamic of changes value of monitoring markers**



**7.3.** 20% of all ESRD patients had elevation of PCT. None of CRP, calprotectin, IL-10, IL-12 correlated with plasma PCT, neither prior nor after HD. None of PCT, CRP, IL- 10 and IL- 12 correlated with calprotectin. Concentrations of plasma calprotectin in all ESRD patients were significantly higher than in healthy controls ( $p < 0.05$ ). No differences

between pre- and post-HD PCT, CRP calprotectin and IL 10and IL12 plasma levels were observed. Plasma PCT, CRP and calprotectin levels were not significantly influenced by the presence of diabetes. A significant positive correlation of plasma calprotectin to plasma beta-2 microglobulin was proven ( $p < 0.05$ ). Elevation of plasma calprotectin correlated strongly to the hemodialysis vintage ( $r=0.55$ ,  $p<0.01$ ).

Interrelationship of PCT and other markers of calcium and bone metabolism presents table 3.

**Table 3. PCT and markers of bone metabolism**

(Spearman's rank correlation test) – prior HD\*  $p < 0.05$  \*\*  $p < 0.001$

<i>r</i>	<b>Ca x P</b>	<b>Ca</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>CAL</b>	<b>PTH</b>	<b>IL-10</b>	<b>ICTP</b>	<b>ALP</b>
<b>Ca x P</b>	x	0.55 **	0.95 **	0.32 *	0.06	-0.03	0.04	0.1	-0.07
<b>Ca</b>	x	x	0.3 *	0.21	0.23 *	-0.13	0.004	0.02	-0.29
<b>P</b>	x	x	x	0.39 **	0.07	0.02	0.026	0.17	0.09
<b>PCT</b>	x	x	x	x	0.71 **	-0.07	-0.1	0.35*	0.22
<b>CAL</b>	x	x	x	x	x	-0.16	-0.12	0.22	0.07
<b>PTH</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.11	0.14	0.04
<b>IL-10</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	- 0.32 *	0.006
<b>ICTP</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.28 *

**7.4. Standard Se substitution-** group A (30-75 µg/d) is not sufficient in critically ill for restoring and keeping the physiologic plasma levels of selenium. In our patients with high doses- group B, Se substitution, 1000 µg 1st day, followed by 500 µg/d for two weeks normalized serum Se level and GSHPx level (without adverse reactions). There was statistically significant increase of cholesterol levels and decrease of SOFA in patients with high Se supplementation. There was no statistical improvement of 28-day mortality in our patients with high dose Se substitution. There were more significant negative correlations between plasmatic Se and parameters of inflammation in group of patients supplemented with high doses of selenium. This statement was in accordance with finding of more frequent transition from septic shock to less severe stage of sepsis. Even if decrease of mortality was not found, presented results may perhaps indicate positive metabolic influence of high Se supplementation in critical illness.

**Table 4. Correlation between inflammatory markers and Selenium**

Parameter	Group A	Group B	Significance
Se x PCT	r = -0.24	r = -0,42	p < 0,05
Se x CRP	r = -0,41	r = -0,53	p < 0,05
Se x SOFA	r = -0,29	r = - 0,03	N.S.

## 8. DISCUSSION

In the first study, using the ROC analyze, we conclude AUC more than 0,6 was only body temperature (0,696), PCT (0,683) a blood platelets (0,658). AUC for CRP was only 0,490. PCT has a clear priority also regarding the diagnosis and differentiation of MODS severity. In accordance with a number of studies that compare a predictive or diagnostic PCT value with proteins of the acute phase, our results confirm the fact,



that the sensitivity and specificity of PCT in patients with bacterial inflammation is higher than in the case of CRP and other proteins of the acute phase.

In the second study we evaluated diagnostic and prognostic value of PCT in patients undergoing conditioning with ATG before stem transplantation. We observed a characteristic early surge in PCT and CRP, followed by a steady decline to a near-normalization on day 4. Yet, this was not associated with clinical infection, as monitored by microbiological cultures. Thus, neither PCT nor CRP proved useful as a valid complementary diagnostic tool at this setting. The exact function, mechanism and the site of PCT production is yet to be fully unveiled. In our study, induction of PCT increase by ATG administration can be explained mainly by lymphocytes destruction. However, the contribution of hepatotoxicity must also be considered. As the dynamics of PCT and CRP changes are similar, we do not believe that a difference in half-time of these parameters plays a role here. Understanding the mechanisms of PCT release could help to elucidate its increase in other non-infectious conditions, as described below. The extent of this increase in our cohort was not dependent on initial liver and renal functions or WBC. It was not predictive within the context of subsequent infectious complications and/or mortality. It could be speculated that the extent of PCT increase is related to a certain immunological body reserve that may not be fully reflected by actual WBC.

In the next two studies with the end state renal diseases (ESRD) patients we monitored again the elevations of PCT without present acute infection. We tried to explain it. The elevations of PCT we found in 20% of all patients. In the first of these studies we monitored correlations of PCT with the other inflammatory markers. It is known that inflammation is a major risk factor for mortality in patients with ESRD. Inflammation is a complex process that reflects the local and systemic responses to different immunological and non-immunological stimuli. Inflammation can be initiated by different ways and is characterized by activation of acute phase response and release of specific markers. The causes of ongoing inflammatory process in ESRD patients is not well understood, but it is accepted that continuous exposure to an inflammatory stimulus (e.g. uremia, oxidative stress and endotoxin exposure) results in local and systemic cell activation. In addition to these proinflammatory conditions, patients on hemodialysis are exposed to different external stimuli, such as high/low flux dialysis,

bioincompatible membranes, dialysate contamination, and access site infections. Polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNLs) play a crucial role in inflammatory cascade in ESRD patients. The main inflammatory mediator of PMNs is calprotectin. In our findings, plasma calprotectin is significantly higher in ESRD patients compared to healthy controls. Significantly elevated levels of plasma calprotectin in ESRD patients occur without an acute infectious cause and are not affected by the presence of diabetes. By analogy to plasma beta-2 microglobulin, close relation of plasma calprotectin to HD vintage was shown. Considering outstanding inflammatory properties of calprotectin, there seems to be a discrepancy between high concentrations of plasma calprotectin and lack of correlation with other systemic inflammatory markers such as PCT, CRP, IL-10 and IL-12, never prior nor after HD, suggesting that these inflammatory markers occur independently of each other. In the second study with ESRD patients we determined relation between PCT and markers of bone metabolism. Elevated plasmatic concentration of P and increased CaP product indicates the degree of renal damage. Thus, the strong positive correlation with PCT seems to be of prognostic significance and might be helpful to identify patients of poor prognosis because of the end-stage chronic renal disease but not because of the systemic infection. We have noticed a close correlation between PCT and ICTP. Nevertheless, plasmatic level of ICTP was elevated in all patients before HD and significantly decreased after HD ( $p < 0.05$ ), unlike PCT. We have noticed significant negative correlation of ICTP with intracellular production of IL-10 in monocytes. IL-10 is an important endogenous suppressor of infection-stimulated bone resorption in vivo, so that its decreased intracellular production in end-stage chronic renal disease probably contributes to the alteration of the bone metabolism in these patients. No correlation between Ca, PTH, ALP and IL-10 on one hand and PCT on other hand was found neither before, nor after HD, as well as no correlation with diuresis and presence of DM, or secondary hyperparathyroidism. We noticed correlation with Ca x P and with ICTP and we conclude the PCT elevation probably presents severity of clinical states again.

In last study we monitored PCT and selected markers, which may have the influence on oxidative stress. In group patients with high doses of selenium (Se) we noticed significant higher level of plasmatic Se and Glutathionperoxidases (GSHPx), higher

increase of plasmatic cholesterol and decrease of SOFA. Also we noticed negative correlation between PCT, CRP and Se plasmatic levels in patients in septic shock. Plasmatic level of Se decreases in patients with hard SIRS, or with septic shock on 50% value. The value under 0,7 umol/l represents 3 times higher risk of incidence of ventilator association pneumonia (VAP) and increase 4 times mortality. The last guidelines recommended i.v.Na-selenit, Na-selenit pentahydrát in doses 400ug Se/day. Marked negative correlation between plasmatic Se levels and PCT, CRP confirms relationship between severity of clinical states, respectively development of SIRS, sepsis ( high plasmatic levels of PCT, CRP) and selenium plasmatic levels.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

1. In accordance with a number of studies that compare a predictive or diagnostic PCT value with proteins of acute phase, our results confirm the fact, that the sensitivity and specificity of PCT in patients with bacterial inflammation is higher than in the case of CRP and other proteins of the acute phase. PCT has a clear priority also regarding the diagnosis and differentiation of MODS mortality. PCT is not used for finding out a local bacterial infect, it does not replace the informative value of proteins of the acute phase, especially CPR at an early stage of recognizing the infection.
2. On the contrary, we often find PCT elevations that are not caused by infectious noxis in diagnosis of critically ill patients. However, this does not make PCT less important. On the contrary, it gives us another diagnostic dimension. PCT shows us the seriousness of the patient's state, the range of reactions of the system, as we have mentioned them in the study on patients with transplantation of blood plates. PCT provides an accurate picture about an infection inflammation in neutrophenic patients, in cases, where the number of leucocytes, the body temperature and sometimes even CRP have no diagnostic value.
3. It is discussed, that PCT is in relation to the changes in bone metabolism in patients with ESRD. Because of the suggested correlation, the PCT elevation in these patients is indicating the seriousness of their condition and the range of damage. It is therefore

assumed, that it does not directly coincide with the metabolism of calcium. The presence of chronic inflammation in these patients is better described by calprotectin.

4. We have proven a clear correlation between Se value and PCT value in serious sepsis patients and patients in septic shock. In relation to increasing PCT value, the plasmatic value of Se decreases. If Se and GSHPx are the milestones of organisms defense against ROS, then PCT increased value server as an indicator of the severity of condition.

From the knowledge we have till now, we can draw following indication of PCT:

Monitoring of critically ill patients - long term high values have worse prognosis.

The control of the therapy and of the development of bacterial infection. The development of value level reflects increasing or decreasing immune reaction to infection, so the dynamics is important.

PCT and the changes of dynamics indicates the beginning and end of ATB therapy in defined clinical states.

Diferencial diagnostic of systemic bacterial infect and fever of unknown origin.

Diferencial diagnostic of systemic autoimmune disease and bacterial complication of these patients.

Prognostic effect of PCT level for patients with MODS or sepsis.

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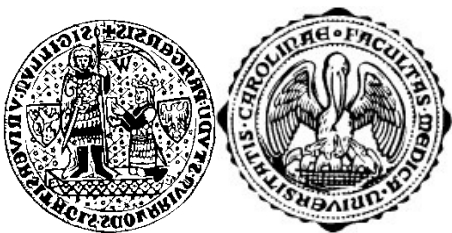
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MONITORING OF BIOCHEMICAL MARKERS OF SEPTIC STATES.

(PhD Thesis Summary)

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